

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 119427

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS, CB

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 6190 (PARA 4)

1. IT IS EVIDENT FROM SPEECHES AT RECENT VICTORY CELEBRATIONS IN HANOI AND SAIGON THAT BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN LEADERS CONSIDER VIET-NAM AS ESSENTIALLY ONE COUNTRY. VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAILED "OUR GLORIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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FATHERLAND, FROM NOW ON DEFINITIVELY RID...OF THE SCOURGE OF PARTITION...WHOLE AGAIN FROM LANG SON TO THE CAPE OF CA MAU..." NLF CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO SAID "OUR COUNTRY IS NO LONGER PARTITIONED, AND THE NORTH AND SOUTH ARE

TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME ROOF AGAIN."

2. AT THE SAME TIME IT APPEARS THAT THE "ROOF" UNDER WHICH NORTH AND SOUTH ARE CURRENTLY TOGETHER IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY, NOT YET FORMAL GOVERNMENTAL REUNIFICATION. SAIGON IS STILL ADMINISTERED BY NVA COL. GEN. TRAN VAN TRA'S MILITARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PRG HAS YET TO BE FORMALLY INSTALLED IN THE CAPITAL; BUT THE PRG'S ROLE AS THE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY REAFFIRMED DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS. INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

ARE STILL NOT CLEAR, BUT IT APPEARS THAT FORMAL NORTH-SOUTH DISTINCTIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE PRESENT. LE DUAN, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID IN HIS VICTORY SPEECH THAT THE NORTH SHOULD "STEP UP SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION" WHILE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH SHOULD "UNITE AND BUILD A SPLENDID DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL REGIME." THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN MANY CALLS FOR ERADICATION OF THE OLD "ROTTEN" SOCIETY IN THE SOUTH, PRESUMABLY PRELIMINARY TO REUNIFICATION.

3. POINTING UP THE ESSENTIAL UNITY OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS DOMINANT ROLE IN THE SOUTH WAS THE EMERGENCE AT THE SAIGON VICTORY CELEBRATION OF PHAM HUNG, THE FOURTH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO, WHO WAS PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED IN 1969 AS A VICE PREMIER OF THE DRV. HE WAS LISTED FIRST AMONG THE SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP AHEAD OF BOTH NGUYEN HUU THO AND PRG PRESIDENT HUYNH TAN PHAT. HUNG IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF OF COSVN SINCE 1967.

4. FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHEN FORMAL REUNIFICATION MAY COME. IT IS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT ULTIMATE POLITICAL AUTHORITY FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH RESIDES IN THE UNIFIED VWP LEADERSHIP CENTERED IN HANOI. WE SUSPECT THAT FORMAL REUNIFICATION WILL BE ACCELERATED CONSIDERABLY

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AHEAD OF THE GENERATION OR MORE WHICH USED TO BE SPOKEN OF BY VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST LEADERS; IT WILL PROBABLY NOT COME FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO, ALTHOUGH CONCEIVABLY IT COULD COME EARLIER.

5. IN MAINTAINING THAT ONLY SOME PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL APPLICABLE, THE COMMUNISTS MAY BE INDICATING THAT THEY INTEND TO PROCEED TOWARD UNIFICATION IN A MANNER THAT THEY CAN CLAIM WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT. THEY WILL PUBLICLY PROCEED WITH "ELECTIONS" AS SOON AS THEY FEEL THEMSELVES FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF ALL ASPECTS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE LIFE. INGERSOLL

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